

**REMARKS**

Claim 1, as presently amended, more clearly distinguishes applicant's unique, and functionally superior, surgical scalpel from known surgical scalpels. The amendments to claim 1 emphasize the relationship between head or tab 60, lip 61a, and tail 62. The tab, lip, and tail of the safety scalpel assembly significantly reduce the opportunity for a "sharps" accident.

Claim 1, as presently revised, is consistent with the revisions to the specification and drawings advanced in Amendment C, filed November 5, 2009. The arguments advanced in pages 7-8 of Amendment C are fully reflected in claim 1, as revised.

Claims 1, and 3-15, define patentable subject matter over the cited prior art.

As indicated in Amendment C, attorney for applicant wishes to schedule an interview to demonstrate applicant's scalpel with its retractable guard, etc. in order to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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